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E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, UK, US, EI  
SUBJECT: ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT -- INTERNATIONAL FUND

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM MARCH 13 MAJOR IRISH DAILIES CONCERNING US AID FUND:
2. IRISH TIMES: "US SENATE HITCH MAY DELAY NORTH AID BILL" BY SEAN CRONIN:

BEGIN TEXT. AFTER SAILING THROUGH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON TUESDAY, ON THE PERSONAL AUTHORITY OF SPEAKER TIP O'NEILL, THE IRISH AID BILL RAN INTO TROUBLE IN THE SENATE YESTERDAY, POSSIBLY DELAYING ITS PASSAGE INDEFINITELY -- UNLESS THE WHITE HOUSE INTERVENES.

SENATOR TED KENNEDY WANTED THE SENATE TO VOTE ON THE BILL YESTERDAY SO THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN COULD SIGN IT ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY -- IN THE PRESENCE OF THE TAOISEACH -- AS "A BIRTHDAY PRESENT" FOR MR. O'NEILL, WHO IS RETIRING FROM CONGRESS AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.

BUT SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR, REPUBLICAN CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SAID THAT WHILE HE SUPPORTS ECONOMIC AID FOR THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT, HIS COMMITTEE MUST GIVE IT A FULL HEARING. A NUMBER OF FOREIGN AID REQUESTS, INCLUDING ONE FOR THE PHILIPPINES, ARE AWAITING ACTION BY THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, AND THE IRISH BILL COULD NOT BE SPEEDED UP WITHOUT A FULL INVESTIGATION, HE SAID.

THE HEARING ON THE BILL WILL NOW BE HELD BY THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE "IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS," THE SENATOR'S PRESS SECRETARY TOLD THE IRISH TIMES. THE 250 MILLION DOLLAR, FIVE-YEAR AID PACKAGE WAS ALSO LINKED TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN THE US AND BRITAIN, THE PRESS SECRETARY INDICATED. THE PRESS SECRETARY, MR. MARK HELMKE, SAID ALL FOREIGN SPENDING REQUIRES THOROUGH INVESTIGATION UNDER THE NEW GRAMM-RUDMAN LAW. THE EXTRADITION TREATY ALSO REFERS TO IRELAND, OR RATHER TO NORTHERN IRELAND, HE NOTED.

"BOTH ISSUES ARE BEFORE US AT THE SAME TIME," MR. HELMKE WENT ON. "THEY BOTH DEAL WITH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT," HINTING THAT THEY SHOULD BE DEALT WITH TOGETHER.

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HE SAID THE TREATY HAS COME UNDER A "LOT OF FIRE" -- MAINLY FROM THE SAME PEOPLE WHO WANT THE AID PACKAGE. MR. JOHN KERRY OF MASSACHUSETTS WANTS THE AID PACKAGE STRENGTHENED WITH A DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE NORTH. HE PLANS TO INTRODUCE AMENDMENTS TO THAT EFFECT.

ACCORDING TO YESTERDAY'S BOSTON GLOBE, SENATOR LUGAR TOLD SENATOR KENNEDY HE "UNDERSTOOD THE ENTHUSIASM OF SOME BOSTON POLITICIANS ON THIS (AID) ISSUE, BUT PEOPLE IN INDIA WILL WANT TO TAKE A HARD LOOK AT IT." MEANWHILE, THE REVEREND SEAN MCMANUS, DIRECTOR OF THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS, WARNED THAT "IF THE ATTEMPT IS MADE TO LINK THE EXTRADITION AND IRISH AID BILLS, BOTH BILLS WILL BE DEFEATED." END TEXT

3. IRISH TIMES: "US AID FACES ROUGH PASSAGE SAYS TAOISEACH" BY JOHN COONEY:

BEGIN TEXT. THE TAOISEACH LAST NIGHT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE 250 MILLION DOLLAR AID PACKAGE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE NORTHERN COUNTIES OF THE REPUBLIC WILL FACE A DIFFICULT PASSAGE THROUGH THE US SENATE.

BUT ON HIS ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK AT THE START OF A SEVEN DAY OFFICIAL VISIT, DR. FITZGERALD WELCOMED THE ADOPTION OF THE PACKAGE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND HE SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT IT WOULD GO THROUGH THE SENATE IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

DR. FITZGERALD SAID THAT THE AID PACKAGE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN SLOWED DOWN IN A PINCH-MOVEMENT BY VARIOUS GROUPS OF SENATORS, SOME OF WHOM WISHED TO LINK THEIR APPROVAL OF THE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO NORTHERN IRELAND WITH PROGRESS BEING MADE IN ACCEPTING THE MACBRIDE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PRINCIPLES AND OTHERS WHO WERE PUSHING FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE US.

THE TAOISEACH'S VISIT MARKED THAT HIGH POINT OF IRISH INFLUENCE IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND ON CAPITOL HILL, AN INFLUENCE WHICH DR. FITZGERALD WILL ENDEAVOR TO DEPLOY IN REGARD TO THE AID PACKAGE BEFORE THE SENATE.

DR. FITZGERALD SAID THAT HE COULD NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 DUBLIN 01074

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SUGGESTIONS BY THE FIANNA FAIL LEADER, MR. HAUGHEY, AND OFFICIAL UNIONISTS, THAT THE AID PACKAGE WAS INSUFFICIENT.

TODAY, THE TAOISEACH MEETS AN OLD FRIEND, DR. HENRY KISSINGER, THE FORMER US SECRETARY OF STATE, WHO ONCE DESCRIBED DR. FITZGERALD AS HIS FAVORITE FOREIGN MINISTER. END TEXT.

4. IRISH INDEPENDENT: "TAOISEACH PUSHES US NORTH AID AS SENATE RECONSIDERS" BY CHRIS GLENNON:

BEGIN TEXT. THE US SENATE WILL BE THE FINAL BATTLEGROUND OVER THE SCALE OF THE MASSIVE AMERICAN AID TO UNDERPIN THE ANGLO-IRISH ACCORD. AS THE TAOISEACH ARRIVED HERE LAST NIGHT AT THE START OF A SIX-DAY VISIT, IT EMERGED THAT THERE WAS THE LIKELIHOOD OF A REAL CLASH ON THE KIND OF PACKAGE THAT MIGHT EMERGE.

THE TERMS OF THE BILL ACCEPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARE FAR MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO IRELAND,

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NORTH AND SOUTH, THAN THE OPENING PROPOSALS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION.

IRISH SOURCES HERE SAID LAST NIGHT THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT THE FINAL OUTCOME. SOME SENATORS WANTED THE OVERALL AID PACKAGE LINKED TO AGREEMENT ON A NEW EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN THE US AND BRITAIN. THAT TREATY, NOW UNDER DISCUSSION, WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO EXTRADITE IRA SUSPECTS FROM AMERICA TO BRITAIN. END TEXT.

5. IRISH INDEPENDENT: "BARRY RAP FOR SKELLY CHARGE" BY LORNA REID:

BEGIN TEXT. A BITTER ROW ERUPTED IN THE DAIL YESTERDAY BETWEEN FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER PETER BARRY AND GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHER LIAM SKELLY OVER THE 250 MILLION DOLLAR US AID PACKAGE FOR THE NORTH.

THE CLASH BETWEEN THE TWO CAME WHEN MR. SKELLY SAID THAT IRELAND WOULD BE BEGGARING HERSELF BY ACCEPTING US AID FOR THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT.

ANGRILY MR. BARRY RETORTED THAT IT WAS BAD ENOUGH FOR THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION TO BELITTLE THIS GENEROSITY WITHOUT HAVING DEPUTIES ON HIS OWN SIDE OF THE HOUSE DOING THE SAME. "THIS IS APPALLING," HE ADDED.

MR. SKELLY SAID THAT A NEWSPAPER STORY ON MARCH 6 HAD SAID 250 MILLION DOLLARS WAS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE. HE ASKED IF IT WAS WISE TO TAKE UP THE MONEY AT ALL, BECAUSE OF THE SMALL AMOUNT INVOLVED.

BUT A STONEY FACED MR. BARRY POINTED OUT THAT THE MONEY WAS IN THE FORM OF A DIRECT CASH GRANT, AND WAS NOT A LOAN.

MR. SKELLY SAID THAT THIS SMALL AMOUNT COULD EASILY BE RAISED FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES THROUGH CONTRACTS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE COUNTRY WAS PUTTING ITSELF IN A BEGGARING POSITION TO SOLVE PROBLEMS WHICH WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SOLVE OURSELVES. END TEXT.

6. CORK EXAMINER: "NORTHERN AID IN CASH" BY LIAM O'NEILL:

BEGIN TEXT. AS THE TAOISEACH, DR. FITZGERALD, ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY FOR A FIVE-DAY VISIT, IT EMERGED THAT THE PROPOSED 250 MILLION DOLLAR AID PACKAGE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND WOULD BE IN CASH RATHER THAN IN GRANTS AND LOANS AS HAD BEEN SUGGESTED. IT WAS MADE CLEAR HERE THAT THE 250 MILLION DOLLARS, OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, WOULD BE IN CASH. THE BILL, PASSED BY CONGRESS, ALSO PROVIDES THAT THE MONEY COULD BE TOPPED UP BY OTHER ASSISTANCE FROM A NUMBER OF FUNDS PROVIDED FOR BY LEGISLATION. BECAUSE OF MR. O'NEILL'S INFLUENCE THE MEASURES RECEIVED A SPEEDIER THAN EXPECTED PASSAGE THROUGH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, BUT THE GOING IS EXPECTED TO BE SOMEWHAT TOUGHER IN THE SENATE WHERE THE BILL COULD TAKE MONTHS.

ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE BY A NUMBER OF SOURCES, UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 DUBLIN 01074

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INCLUDING NORAIID, WHICH IS GENERALLY LOOKED UPON AS A  
FRONT FOR THE IRA, TO HAVE STRICT CONDITIONS ATTACHED  
TO THE PAYMENT OF THE MONEY. END TEXT.  
GEWECKE

END OF MESSAGE

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